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Mansfield Sprague

60-549

22 January 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion with Mansfield Sprague

Following up on a discussion with the DCI, I telephoned Mansfield Sprague in New York this afternoon. He told me that he expected to get his committee under way about the 15th of February and that offices would probably be at Jackson Place. He himself expects to come to Washington shortly after the 1st of February.

I told him that we are prepared to make one of our very best people, [] available to him for the staff, if he wants us to. He said that he certainly did. I added that [] is particularly experienced in fields which will be of special interest to the Sprague Committee.

I told Mr. Sprague that we were not sure what his ideas were on the size of his staff and that if he wished another CIA officer we no doubt could find a first-class one for him although we have only the one name to offer at this time. He said he appreciated this and would bear it in mind in case of need; however, he felt that six would be adequate to begin with and he did not think he should think in larger numbers unless later experience should indicate the desirability of doing that. The six he mentioned will consist of one each from the four principal agencies, plus the Staff Director and Col. Coffey, Karl Harr's assistant.

Mr. Sprague said that Abbott Washburn had made much the same offer as we about personnel. This gave me an opportunity to open the subject of representation on the committee itself, and I asked if Washburn was to be the member for USIA. Sprague replied that his concept of the committee was that there would be three public members and that State, Defense, USIA and CIA would "participate on an ad hoc basis." He said that as he now saw it he expected these

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agencies to be represented by Messrs. Merchant; Gates or Irwin; Allen or Washburn; and Dulles. In view of this statement, I did not mention the possibility of Mr. Bross, feeling that this could be negotiated later if necessary. However, it appeared to me that Mr. Sprague was not planning to call on the agency members very extensively. In this connection, he said that he did not propose to have the agency members sign the report, so as to avoid any possible conflict of interest.

(Signed) Thomas A. Parrott

THOMAS A. PARROTT

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